

Appl. No. 10/052,684
Amdt. dated November 15, 2006
Amendment under 37 CFR 1.116 Expedited Procedure
Examining Group 2664

PATENT

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 7-19, 21, 25-30, 35-40, and 42 are pending.

A final Office action was mailed September 2, 2006.

A response to the final Office action was mailed September 20, 2006.

An Advisory action was mailed November 3, 2006, indicating that the September 20 response and its claim amendments were NOT entered.

Amendments to the claims made herein, therefore, are made to the claims as they were presented in the earlier-filed response of April 5, 2006.

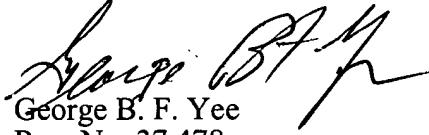
It was noted in the final Office action that claims 7 and 35 were substantially duplicated, respectively, by claims 41 and 43. By this response, claims 41 and 43 are canceled.

It was noted in the final Office action that claims 7-16, 25-30, and 35-40 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. By this response, claims 7, 9, 25, and 35 are rewritten in independent form and are believed to be allowable. Claims depending from claims 7, 9, 22, or 35 are believed to be allowable by virtue of the allowability of their respective base claims. Claims 1-6, 22-24, and 31-34 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

It was noted in the final Office action that claims 17-19, 21, and 42 are allowed. These claims are retained.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance and an action to that end is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



George B. F. Yee
Reg. No. 37,478

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP
Two Embarcadero Center, Eighth Floor
San Francisco, California 94111-3834
Tel: 650-326-2400
Fax: 415-576-0300
GBFY:cmm
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